

Memo

To: Lisa Mader
From: Francis Rullan
CC: Rica Lewis-Payton
Date: 4/9/2001
Re: Agency Update as Requested – Highlights of Legislation

At the end of this year's legislative session members of the Senate unanimously confirmed Rica Lewis-Payton as Medicaid's Executive Director.

With the passage of the Medicaid Upper Payment Limits Bill, the amount of money used to reimburse participating hospitals will be dramatically increased, which means more Mississippians with better access to medical care.

Enhanced dental benefits for Mississippi Health Benefits (CHIP) beneficiaries are now available. The CHIP Repealer is now removed, and now under "Presumptive Eligibility" children applying for CHIP may now receive benefits during the 30-day processing period.

A new category of service has been created for the reimbursement of treatment for uninsured women under age 65 who test positive for Breast and Cervical Cancer. Services provided by physician assistants are now reimbursable.

The Division of Medicaid has been designated as the lead agency among multiple State agencies to develop a plan for the provision of services to persons with disabilities in the most integrated setting that is deemed appropriate. We are working to make sure that every Mississippian has equal opportunities for services statewide.

The Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth – establishes and empowers the ICCCY to implement a planning process for agencies serving children with severe emotional disturbances (SED).

More Mississippians are being reached by the services of the Division of Medicaid, creating a better quality of life for every person in our state.

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